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TAGS: PINS, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: POLITICAL VIOLENCE SUMMARY JANUARY-MAY 1982
REF: (A) STATE 180721 (B) STATE 167659 (C) SS A-6
1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS SUMMARIZED DATA ON POLITICAL VIOLENCE FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH MAY 31, 1982. (THE REGULAR EMBASSY VIOLENCE REPORT WILL KEEP PRESS REPORTING CURRENT.) LISTED AS SOURCES FOR THE FOLLOWING TABLES ARE: LOCAL PRESS REPORTS (CORRESPONDS TO EMBASSY VIOLENCE REPORT CABLES), SOCORRO JURIDICO, THE EL SALVADOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISION (CDHES), THE COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS AND RELATIVES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED, THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA), AND THE ARCHBISHOPRIC COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE. WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION OF SOCORRO JURIDICO'S FIGURE FOR APRIL, ALL SOURCES REPORT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED CIVILIAN DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO POLITICAL VIOLENCE FOR THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE MARCH 28 ELECTIONS, AND FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1982 COMPARED TO ANY OTHER PERIOD DURING THE PRECEDING THREE YEARS. (SOCORRO JURIDICO'S FIGURES APPEAR TO FOLLOW THE TREND REPORTED BY OTHER SOURCES, BUT WITH A ONE MONTH LAG.)
2. CIVILIAN DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO POLITICAL VIOLENCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY fs DATE 11/29/82
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FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH MAY 31, 1982.

SOURCE: MONTH:	PRESS REPORTS	SOCORRO JURIDICO	CDHES	COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS	UCA
JANUARY	277	466	526	631	539
FEBRUARY	361	532	405	405	387
MARCH	438	526	905	905	483
APRIL	170	805	235	235	353
MAY	233	375	269	265	334
TOTAL:	1479	2704	2440	2441	2095

3. CIVILIAN DISAPPEARANCES FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH MAY 31, 1982.

SOURCE: MONTH:	PRESS REPORTS	COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE	CDHES	COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS	UCA

JANUARY	44	--	91	92	102
FEBRUARY	33	--	15	100	86
MARCH	46	--	23	103	57
APRIL	52	--	15	56	16
MAY	23	68	--	28	35
TOTAL:	198	(68)	(144)	379	297

4. NOTES ON SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY.
-- PRESS REPORTS. THIS INFORMATION IS TRANSMITTED IN THE BI-WEEKLY VIOLENCE REPORTS. THE PRIMARY SOURCE FOR NEWSPAPER REPORTING OF CIVILIAN DEATHS ARE THE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE LOCATED IN MUNICIPALITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. ONE OF THE PRIMARY JOBS OF THE JUSTICE IS THE IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTERING OF BODIES. EXCEPT FOR THE MOST CONFLICTIVE AREAS, JUSTICES FILE REGULAR
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REPORTS WITH THE COURTS. TO THE EXTENT THAT REPORTERS CHECK WITH THE COURTS, THE FIGURES ARE AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF REPORTED DEATHS. NOT ALL DEATHS ARE REPORTED, AND NOT ALL AREAS ARE COVERED BY JUSTICES OR REPORTERS. THEREFORE, THE FIGURES ARE SUBJECT TO SOME DEGREE OF UNDERREPORTING, BUT DO ACCURATELY REFLECT TRENDS. DISAPPEARANCES ARE REPORTED DIRECTLY TO PRESS BY FAMILY MEMBERS, OR ARE TAKEN FROM POLICE REPORTS.
-- SOCORRO JURIDICO. SOCORRO JURIDICO IS THE LEGAL AID OFFICE PREVIOUSLY LOCATED IN THE ARCHBISHOPRIC AND SINCE MID-APRIL LOCATED IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH. IT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE SOCORRO JURIDICO CRISTIANO. ITS FIGURES ON DEATHS ARE TAKEN FROM NEWSPAPERS, FROM RADIO VENCEREMOS, FROM DENUNCIATIONS BY FAMILY MEMBERS, AND FROM OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. THE FIGURES MAY BE SUBJECT TO INFLATION THROUGH DUPLICATION OF REPORTING BY OTHER SOURCES.
-- THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF EL SALVADOR (CDHES). CDHES COLLECTS INFORMATION AND ISSUES REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FROM ITS OFFICES IN THE ARCHBISHOPRIC. ITS FIGURES ON DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES ARE TAKEN FROM NEWSPAPERS, OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, AND ON OCCASION, PERSONAL OBSERVATION. THE FIGURES MAY BE SUBJECT TO INFLATION THROUGH DUPLICATION OF REPORTING BY OTHER SOURCES.
-- THE COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS AND RELATIVES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED. THE COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ISSUES FROM OFFICES ADJACENT TO THE ARCHBISHOPRIC. ITS FIGURES ON DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES ARE TAKEN FROM NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. THE FIGURES MAY BE SUBJECT TO INFLATION THROUGH DUPLICATION OF REPORTING BY OTHER SOURCES.

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-- THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA). THE UCA ACTS AS A HUMAN RIGHTS CLEARING HOUSE, TAKING ITS INFORMATION FROM NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.
-- ARCHBISHOPRIC COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE. THE COMMISSION BEGAN REPORTING ON DISAPPEARANCES IN MAY 1982, AFTER REPLACING SOCORRO JURIDICO IN THE ARCHBISHOPRIC. ITS FIGURES ARE TAKEN FROM DENUNCIATIONS BY FAMILY MEMBERS WHICH COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AS WRITS OF HABEUS CORPUS TO THE SUPREME COURT. DENUNCIATIONS DERIVE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE SAN SALVADOR AREA.
5. GENERAL NOTE: BECAUSE OF THE INACCURACIES INHERENT IN VIOLENCE REPORTING AND THE POSSIBILITY OF DUPLICATION, THE RELIABILITY OF THE FIGURES, EXCEPT FOR DEATHS REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND DISAPPEARANCES REPORTED BY THE COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THE HIGHER FIGURES REPORTED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ARE UNVERIFIED. NEVERTHELESS, IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT VERIFIED FIGURES UNDERREPORT THE ACTUAL SITUATION.
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